

**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney*

*Eastern District of Virginia*

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Norfolk, Virginia** – Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced today that Christopher Anthony Caruso, age 19, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, was sentenced by Judge Jerome B. Friedman in U.S. District Court in Norfolk, Virginia, to 52 months incarceration for his conviction for conspiracy to distribute ecstasy. The defendant pled guilty on August 16, 2002.

Mr. Caruso and his co-defendant, Ali Ram Hasson, were charged following an investigation by agents with the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Naval Criminal Investigative Service and the Virginia Beach Police Department. Investigators working in an undercover capacity purchased substantial quantities of ecstasy from Caruso, who obtained it from Ali Ram Hasson and then sold it to the undercover agents. Ali Ram Hasson, a native of Israel, pled guilty in a related case to conspiracy to distribute ecstasy. Ali Ram Hasson was sentenced on December 20, 2002, by Judge Jerome B. Friedman to 97 months incarceration. At the time of sentencing, a judicial order of removal was entered allowing Ali Ram Hasson to be immediately deported to Israel at the conclusion of his sentence.

Mr. McNulty said: "This prosecution is another chapter in the Federal Government's battle against the rapid spread of ecstasy in the Hampton Roads area. This drug is a serious problem, and those who sell it will do serious time behind bars."

Assistant United States Attorney Laura P. Tayman prosecuted the case.